

TESTIMONY
PROPOSED BILL No. 5421

An act exempting Death Certificates of Minors from Public Disclosure

Good Morning Senator Musto, Representative Jutilla and members of the Committee.

My name is Monica Duhancik. I have been an Assistant Town Clerk for the Town of Newtown for the past 7 years and also a lifetime resident.

I am testifying today in support of House Bill No. 5421,
An act exempting Death Certificates of Minors from Public Disclosure.

In the wake of the devastating events that took place on December 14, 2012, at the Sandy Hook Elementary School it has painfully been brought to my attention, that death records recorded in the office of the Town Clerk are of public access. Should a request be made for a copy of such record, the law says we are to issue a certified copy and charge the enforced fee of \$20.00 each. Requests, indeed, have been made for copies of the death records of our 20 children and six adults we lost that day. These requests came from "The Press" and "The Media".

I would ask that you consider the restriction of public access to all death records, especially minors, to the "public". Access to these records should only be for immediate family (i.e. Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles & Siblings). This is out of respect to the privacy of family members related to the deceased. More importantly, to keep this information out of the hands of any possible identity theft.

Please consider this as a possible solution, similar to our "wallet size" Birth Certificates. We would be able to fill a Public Request on a Death record in a wallet size format which would include only:
Name of Deceased, Date of Death, Place of Death & Sex.

Excluding any and all other information by omitting informants name, address, mothers maiden name, place of burial, social security numbers etc. and even cause of death.

This wallet size Death Certificate would cost \$15.00 each (just as we currently charge for the wallet size Birth Certificate).

In closing, I thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify in favor of re-evaluating Public accessibility regarding Death Records of minors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monica E. Duhancik
Assistant Town Clerk
3 Primrose Street
Newtown, Conn. 06470

NOT VALID WITHOUT SEAL

CERTIFICATION OF BIRTH	
STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH Vital Records Section, Hartford, Connecticut, U.S.A.	
Registration No.	
Name	
Date of Birth	Sex
Place of Birth	
Reg. Date	Date Issued
This is a true Certification of Name and Birth Facts as Recorded in this Office	
By	
Local Registrar of Vital Statistics	
Town of	

STATE OF CONNECTICUT